

CLASSIFICATION **CONFIDENTIAL**COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone)REPORT NO.

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TOPIC Laerz AirfieldEVALUATION see below

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DATE OF CONTENT 5 to 26 October 1951DATE OBTAINED

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DATE PREPARED 28 November 1951REFERENCES PAGES 9

ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

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REMARKS

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1. On the morning of 5 October 1951, aircraft observed at Laerz Airfield included 23 jet fighters in the dispersal area along the canal, 18 jet fighters in the southeastern corner of the field, 4 alert jet fighters on the southend of the short runway, 4 single-engine aircraft, and 4 biplanes in the dispersal area along the canal. The number of aircraft parked at the field was possibly larger because the view was obstructed by bushes. (1)

2.

3. The air force troops were still quartered in the barracks building in Rechlin.

 Every day at 7 a.m. for about three weeks, the regular train stopped at the field and 40 to 50 Soviet Air Force soldiers left the train. The field was heavily guarded.

4. Between 2 and 2:30 p.m. on 15 October, 58 MiG-15s, 5 single-engine transport were parked at the field. On 16 October, 33 MiG-15s, 4 single-engine low-wing monoplanes with radial engines, 2 biplanes, and 1 twin-engine transport were observed at the installation. No other aircraft were parked at the field. There was no flying.

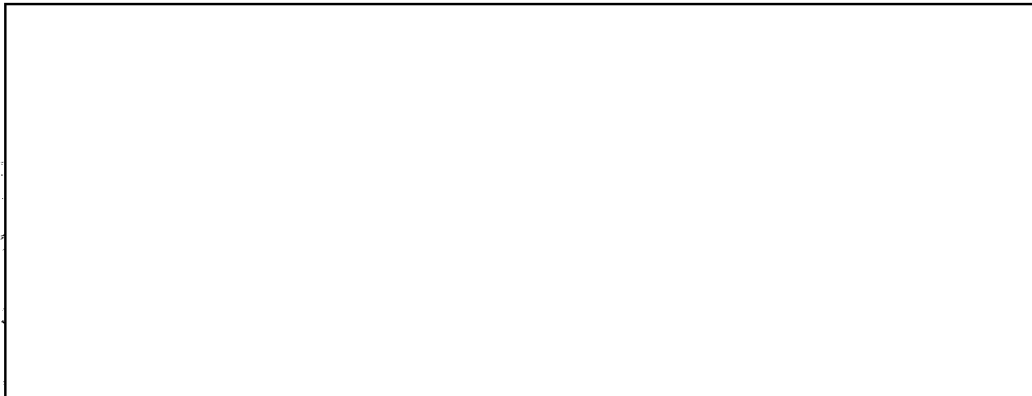
 Other MiG-15s on the field were covered with tarpaulins. (2)

5. On 22 October, the occupation and activity in the Rechlin restricted area had increased considerably when compared with observations made in September. All of the troops wore black-bordered blue epaulets. The radar set of Dumbo type was still located in its previous location. (3)

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6. Between 2 and 5 p.m. on 25 October, there was intensive flying at the field. Eight swept-back jet fighters were in the air at the same time. Some dived over Rechlin airfield, fired two or three rounds and then climbed. Each plane made two or three passes. Night flying has not been recently observed.

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Flying was discontinued immediately when the sedan appeared and continued one hour later. About 3:30 p.m. a police patrol controlled all passers-by and asked where the sedan had gone. Three laborers stated that the sedan had proceeded along the northern edge of the field where it had stopped for a short time and then went toward the east. (5)

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9. At 3 p.m. on 26 October, aircraft observed at the field included 6 MiG-15s with auxiliary fuel tanks which were parked in the northwestern corner of the field, 8 MiG-15s in the southern section of the field, and 6 MiG-15s with auxiliary fuel tanks on the west end of the runway. A MiG-15 without auxiliary fuel tank landed at the field at 4 p.m. and another MiG-15 with auxiliary fuel tank took off at 4:10 p.m. There was no other flying up to 5 p.m. No jet fighter crates or tank trucks were observed at the field.

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Comments.

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- (1) According to previous observations [redacted] Laerz airfield is occupied by a fighter division headquarters and two fighter regiments equipped with MiG-15s. The number of aircraft stationed at the field is not known. It estimated at 80 MiG-15s, some conventional fighters, and PO-2s.

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